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Exploration and Discovery

IN the spring of this year Professor A. H. Sayce made a visit to an unexplored region of North Syria. Professor Sayce traveled from Aleppo northeast across the Sajur to Carchemish and Birejik on the Euphrates, and found the region full of tels and somewhat rich in ruins and remains. A full report of his journey and observations appears in the *Proceedings of the Society of Biblical Archaeology* for June 14, 1911.

ON April 6, 1911, the Palestine Exploration Fund undertook excavations at 'Ain Shems, the ancient Beth Shemesh, which were continued until May 17. Dr. Duncan Mackenzie had charge of the excavations, employing thirty-six workmen at first, and increasing the number until at the close of the campaign one hundred and sixty-seven were employed. The remains at Beth Shemesh include Arab, Byzantine, Semitic, and earlier strata, reaching back, it is thought, even to the Bronze Age. Already it is apparent that the city suffered at least one thorough sack and conflagration, and Dr. Mackenzie is hopeful that the period to which this destruction belonged may be determined. Dr. Mackenzie's work has been visited by Father Vincent, of Jerusalem, and Sir Charles Watson, who report their impressions of its interest and promise in the July *Statement* of the Palestine Exploration Fund.

THE widespread publication of the report of a new gospel fragment found in Egypt calls for a word of correction. The fragment in question will be readily recognized as the single tiny parchment leaf found by Grenfell and Hunt at Oxyrhynchus in December, 1905, announced, with a translation, in the London *Times* of May 14, 1906, and in American papers on the following day, and published in Greek and English with critical notes in *Oxyrhynchus Papyri*, Vol. V, 1908. The readers of the *Biblical World* will remember the publication in this journal for February, 1908, of a facsimile, translation, and discussion of this interesting document, which may with some probability be assigned to the later and extended form of the ancient Gospel According to the Hebrews. The reported connection of the discovery and translation of the fragment with the recent visit of Professor Thomas Whittemore, of Tufts College, to Egypt, is of course without foundation. But it is true that such concrete results may be expected from the excavations of the Graeco-Roman Branch of the Egypt Exploration Fund.